

10/559609

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 DEC 2005

03500.103418

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|   |   |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| In re Application of:                   | ) |                                  |
| SHINJI ERITATE ET AL.                   | ) | Examiner: Not Yet Assigned       |
| Application No.: Not Yet Assigned       | ) | Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned |
| Int'l Application No. PCT/JP2004/013864 | ) |                                  |
| Filed: September 15, 2004               | ) |                                  |
| For: MEMBRANE ELECTRODE                 | ) |                                  |
| ASSEMBLY, PRODUCTION                    | ) |                                  |
| METHOD FOR THE SAME, AND                | ) |                                  |
| PROTON-EXCHANGE                         | ) |                                  |
| MEMBRANE FUEL CELL                      | ) | December 1, 2005                 |

**Mail Stop PCT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Since the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office waived the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371, no copies of such documents are enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is to make of record documents cited in the International Search Report and the Written Opinion issued in the international

application of which the subject application is a national stage. Copies of the Search Report and the Written Opinion are enclosed.

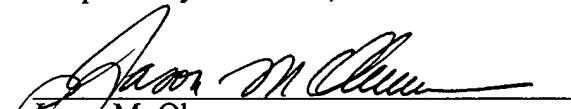
The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents may be found, inter alia, in the English language abstracts attached thereto and/or in the Search Report and the Written Opinion. Also, the concise explanation of relevance for WO 94/14203 A1 may be found in U.S. Patent No. 5,723,086, which is in the same patent family. The concise explanation of relevance for WO 02/33709 A1 and WO 03/081707 A1 may be found, respectively, in U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2004/0044160 A1 and 2004/0209155 A1, which are in the same respective patent families.

#### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified)<br><br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)<br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  |  | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br><b>03500.103418</b>    |  | <b>10/559609</b><br>APPLICATION NO. N.Y.A.<br>Nat'l Stage of<br>PCT/JP2004/013864 |  |  |
|   |  |  | APPLICANT<br><b>Shinji Eritate et al.</b> |  | <b>10/559609</b><br>IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 DEC 2003                                |  |  |
|   |  |  | FILING DATE<br><b>September 15, 2004</b>  |  | GROUP<br><b>N.Y.A.</b>  |  |  |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |  |                 |          |                |       |          |                            |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|----------|----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| *EXAMINER INITIAL     |  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE     | NAME           | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|                       |  | 5,723,086       | 03/03/98 | Ledjeff et al. | 264   | 248      |                            |
|                       |  | 2004/0044160 A1 | 03/04/04 | Ito et al.     | 526   | 274      |                            |
|                       |  | 2004/0209155 A1 | 10/21/04 | Kosako et al.  | 429   | 44       |                            |
|                       |  |                 |          |                |       |          |                            |
|                       |  |                 |          |                |       |          |                            |
|                       |  |                 |          |                |       |          |                            |
|                       |  |                 |          |                |       |          |                            |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |    |                 |          |               |       |          |                                 |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------|----------|---------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
|                          |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE     | COUNTRY       | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
|                          | JP | 5-109419        | 04/30/93 | Japan         |       |          | Abstract                        |
|                          | WO | 94/14203 A1     | 06/23/94 | International |       |          | Abstract                        |
|                          | WO | 02/33709 A1     | 04/25/02 | International |       |          | Abstract                        |
|                          | WO | 03/081707 A1    | 10/02/03 | International |       |          | Abstract                        |
|                          |    |                 |          |               |       |          |                                 |

| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |  |  |
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|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1